

ISSUE #9 - Shoshone-Bannock Off-Reservation Rights

Background

The present Fort Hall Reservation boundary was established in 1900 by ceded adjustment. However, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes retained all wood-gathering, livestock grazing, hunting, and harvesting rights on the ceded lands that have remained in public ownership. Therefore, all public lands 16 to 26 miles south of the Reservation unit are subject to these carryover rights (see Map 7). The exercising of these rights have caused no problems in managing the public lands to date; however, if grazing rights should be exercised, severe adverse economic impacts could occur to some or all of the presently authorized grazers.

Criteria

The BLM will accommodate on public lands within the ceded boundary all Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' off-Reservation rights with as little impact as possible to existing privileges granted through lease or permit.

No public lands within the ceded area will be disposed of through sale. However, opportunities for exchange may provide benefits to the off-Reservation rights and the BLM will be closely coordinated with the Tribes.

ISSUE #10 - Mineral Development (Prospecting Leases, Phosphate Mining, Geophysical, and Oil and Gas Exploration)

Background

The mineral development and processing industries are a major economic factor in southeastern Idaho, employing over 1,500 persons in the PRA. In Caribou County, about 1 in 5 jobs are directly mining related (Bureau of Economic Analysis 1985). The known phosphate reserves will provide a stable resource base to supply market demands for fertilizer and elemental phosphorous, and continued employment long into the foreseeable future. Also, there is good potential for discovery of additional phosphate deposits, and other resources including geothermal energy, oil and gas, and hardrock locatable minerals. Mineral development also results in negative impact to other public land resources which, if not properly mitigated, can cause reduction of visual quality, loss of forage and/or displacement of livestock and wildlife, and off-site impacts to water quality and fisheries. Many potential impacts are eliminated or reduced through properly developed, site-specific stipulations which require reclamation of disturbed lands, control of development methods, avoidance of critical wildlife areas, etc.

Criteria

BLM manages energy and mineral resources on the public lands. Generally, the public lands are available for exploration and development, subject to applicable regulations and Federal and State laws.

Areas will be identified where there are major conflicts between mineral leasing and exploration and other resources. Generally, when these conflicts occur, an Environmental Assessment will be completed to develop protective stipulations (such as seasonal closures) or mitigating measures which would be tailored to the specific conditions and resources affected. These stipulations will be designed to eliminate or reduce adverse impacts to the resources in conflict with mineral leasing. Where adverse impacts to critical resources cannot be adequately mitigated, leasing will be allowed only with a No-Surface-Occupancy (NSO) stipulation.

ISSUE #11 - Availability of Lands for Phosphate, Competitive and Non-Competitive Leasing (Fringe Acreage), and for Oil and Gas Leasing

Background

There are lands in the PRA containing phosphate deposits which are large enough to support a viable mining operation, but which are not yet leased. These lands are available for competitive leasing if there are showings of interest.

Also, there are lands adjacent to existing leases which contain known phosphate resources, but not large enough to be of interest except to the adjacent lease holder. These lands may be offered for non-competitive, fringe acreage leasing.

Competitive lease offerings are discretionary with the Department of the Interior. Existing mining operations sometimes require additional acreage which, although small in size, is needed to fully recover the mineral deposit.

Approximately 70 to 80 percent of available lands in the PRA are already leased for oil and gas. Leases will be offered on the remaining areas through the Simultaneous Leasing Program or by over-the-counter lease applications. When leases expire, they are made available for leasing through the Simultaneous Leasing Program.

Criteria

BLM policy states that it is the objective of BLM to make public lands available for the orderly and efficient development of energy and mineral resources under principles of balanced multiple use management. This policy also states that withdrawals and administrative actions must be clearly justified and be in the national interest (BLM Mineral Resources Policy Statement, 1984).

Lands and mineral estate with high values will continue to be made available for exploration and leasing under all alternatives. NSO stipulations will only be applied using sound management criteria and where resource protection is required by the FLPMA.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Fire Management

Develop a fire management plan for the PRA and maintain vegetation types based on:

1. Capability of the land for improvement through fire manipulation.
2. Protection of certain public and private lands (e.g., critical wildlife and watershed areas, cultural resources, privately owned structures such as homes, oil and gas pumping stations, etc.).
3. Need to change plant communities through the use of prescribed fires, primarily to benefit livestock and wildlife forage, as well as to improve watershed conditions.
4. Identify areas within the PRA as either limited or full suppression.

Cultural Resource Management

BLM will manage cultural resources so that representative samples of the full array of scientific and socio-cultural values are maintained consistent with State and Federal laws.

Management will emphasize appropriate site use through the development of specific management plans. These management plans will identify cultural resource protection and use objectives, establish the actions BLM must take to achieve its objectives, and outline procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

During the planning process there has been consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be notified prior to implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened and endangered species. If a "may affect" situation is determined through the environmental assessment process, consultation with the USFWS will be initiated in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The BLM is aware of the presence of three listed endangered species (whooping crane, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle) in the PRA. BLM has consulted with the USFWS throughout the Pocatello RMP process and will continue to coordinate with the USFWS.

Wilderness Study Areas

There are two WSAs in the PRA. They are Petticoat Peak (ID-28-1) which consists of 11,298 acres and the 40 acre Worm Creek parcel (ID-37-77) which is adjacent to a larger U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposal.

The study and environmental analysis of the two WSAs is not included in this RMP/EIS. The Petticoat Peak WSA was evaluated in the Eastern Idaho Plan amendment /EIS. Worm Creek will be evaluated in a plan amendment/EIS covering eight other WSAs less than 5000 acres located throughout Idaho. Although the 11,338 acres that total the two WSAs are carried in this RMP for some resource programs to balance acreages, wilderness suitability in the PRA will not be evaluated in this document.

The Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek WSAs will continue to be managed in compliance with the BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM revised June 1986) until acted upon by Congress.

Access (refer to Map 8)

Table 1 lists access needs common to all alternatives. In most cases, vehicle access is the needed type of access. However, this may vary according to each alternative and the needs identified in subsequent activity plans for each benefiting resource activity.

TABLE 1
COMMON ACCESS NEEDS

Location	Legal Description			Miles	Activity	Coordination Needed
Morgan Bridge	T4S	R39E	S19	0.1	Recreation	
Stump Creek	T7S	R46E	S22	0.5	Comm. Site Recreation	
Taylor Mountain	T1S	R39E	S7	2.5	Comm. Site	
Blackrock Canyon	T7S	R35E	S14	0.5	Recreation	
Moonlight Mtn.	T6S	R36E	S30	0.5	"	Sho/Ban
Caddy Canyon	T7S	R35E	S14	1.5	"	
King Creek	T7S	R38E	S16	1.8	"	FS
Crystal Creek	T8S	R34E	S30	0.8	"	FS
Bell Marsh Creek	T8S	R36E	S34	2.0	"	FS
Smith Canyon	T8S	R38E	S10	0.3	"	
S. Fish Creek	T9S	R38E	S22	0.3	"	
Garden Creek	T10S	R35E	S4	1.0	Comm. Site Recreation	
Browns Canyon	T6S	R44E	S29	2.0	Recreation	FS
Cottonwood Creek	T12S	R40E	S34	1.5	"	
Beaver Basin	T10S	R39E	S22	0.3	"	
Wallentine	T8S	R44E	S31	1.0	"	
Harkness Canyon	T9S	R37E	S9	2.0	Recreation	FS
E. Bob Smith	T9S	R37E	S13	1.5	"	FS
Outlaw Creek	T6S	R34E	S32	1.5	"	FS
Jacobs Canyon	T15S	R43E	S28	0.5	"	County
Cheatback Canyon	T11S	R41E	S4	0.5	"	
Upper Miles Cyn.	T13S	R43E	S17	0.3	"	
Bear Hollow	T13S	R45E	S18	2.5	"	FS
Oregon Trail	T13S	R45E	S32	4.5	"	
Cottonwood/Lost	T9S	R36E	S20	2.0	"	FS
Soda Point	T9S	R41E	S7	0.05	"	
Co-op Creek	T11S	R43E	S32	2.0		
Total:				33.95 Miles		

Easements

Blackfoot River						
Narrows	T7S	R42E,	S11	1.0	Recreation	
2 1/2 Mile Cyn.	T5S	R35E,	S30	0.5	"	
Oneida Narrows	T14S	R40E,	S21	9.0	"	
Total:				10.5 Miles		

ISSUES AND CONCERNS CONSIDERED BUT NOT ADDRESSED IN DETAIL

The following issues and concerns were identified during the issue identification/analysis phase of the planning process and are the result of public input at public meetings or were written comments.

Issues/Concern

Rationale for Not Considering

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|--|---|
| 1. Fees and Processing Costs/Fiscal Policy. Public programs should bring a return to the government which is at least equal to the BLM's costs. Make programs pay their own way. Do not waste tax money. | These concerns cannot be addressed by the planning process because it is a legislative procedure. |
| 2. Land Use Planning. Under the BLM/FS Interchange, BLM should retain mineral administration and adjudication. | This concern cannot be addressed by the planning process because it is a legislative procedure. |
| 3. Garden Creek Gap. Concerned about the proposed development of the Garden Creek Gap proposal, and what would be the impacts of a "subdivision" on wildlife. | This concern is covered under Issue #4. BLM will continue to work with Bannock County to resolve any problems occurring in this area. |
| 4. Maintain a reasonable population of beaver, but must be kept out of irrigation ditches. | This is not a concern that can be addressed by the planning process. The Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game has responsibility for the beaver populations and control. BLM will continue to cooperate with Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game on any control needs. |
| 5. Hydro. No small hydroelectric projects should be allowed on public lands. | These concerns cannot be addressed by the planning process because they are not specific enough. BLM will continue to allow or deny small hydro-electric projects on a case-by-case basis using the environmental analysis approach. |

MULTIPLE USE AND TRANSFER CLASSES

The RMP has been broken down into the following multiple use or transfer classes: intensive use/development, moderate use, limited use, or transfer. Multiple use and transfer classes are general planning categories included in Idaho RMPs to provide Statewide consistency and uniformity.

Multiple use and transfer classes serve two purposes in this plan. The first is to describe overall opportunities and constraints by indicating what level of resource production and use is appropriate, what intensity of management is needed, whether there are sensitive and significant resources that must be protected, and whether BLM would consider transfer of public lands from its jurisdiction. The second purpose is to provide a basis for considering unexpected proposals by supplementing the detailed resource management objectives and required actions established for the PRA with general purpose and policy statements. This feature is intended to help keep the plan responsive to future demands and to reduce the number of future plan amendments that otherwise might be needed.

Prior to undertaking or approving any proposed resource management action on public lands in the PRA, BLM will ensure that such action is consistent with the purposes and policies of the multiple use or transfer class or classes involved.

The multiple use classes assigned to the RMP for each alternative are shown on Maps 2 through 6. Map 3 illustrates all of the potential transfer classes. Public lands are placed in the multiple use or transfer class that best reflects the specific resources and management priorities for the area. The multiple use and transfer classes described for the RMP pertain only to the surface acreage managed by the BLM. A description of these classes and their purposes and policies is given in the following sections.

Moderate Use Class

A total of 101,141 acres are classified as moderate use in this Draft RMP.

Purpose

The purpose of a moderate use class is to delineate public lands that are suitable for a wide variety of existing and potential uses.

Policy

The first priority for managing a moderate use class is to provide for the production or use of forage, timber, minerals and energy, recreation, or other consumptive resources while maintaining or enhancing natural systems. These areas will be managed for a moderate intensity of use and

will generally be available for production and use of consumptive resources, subject to BLM standard operating procedures and other controls as needed. Sensitive and significant resource values, however, will be protected consistent with Federal and State law. Public lands in a moderate use class will be retained in Federal ownership.

Limited Use Class

A total of 137,350 acres are classified as limited use in this Draft RMP.

Purpose

The purpose of a limited use class is to delineate public lands where strict environmental controls are required to protect sensitive and significant resources.

Policy

The first priority for managing a limited use class is to protect key wildlife habitat, scenic values, wilderness, cultural resources, watershed, and other sensitive and significant resources while providing for other compatible uses. These areas will be managed for relatively low intensities of use and with strict environmental controls to protect sensitive and significant values. A limited use class may be closed to or contain restrictions on off-road-vehicle use, mineral and energy exploration and development, forest management practices, location of utility corridors and installations, and livestock grazing. Because of the relatively significant environmental considerations in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Special attention will be given to finding appropriate locations for compatible uses. Public lands in a limited use class will be retained in Federal ownership.

Intensive Use/Development Class

A total of 2,930 acres are classified as intensive use/development and another 75 acres are proposed for intensive use/development in this Draft RMP. These sites and acreages are shown on Table 2.

Purpose

The purpose of an intensive use/development class is to delineate areas suitable for large-scale intensive use and development.

TABLE 2
INTENSIVE USE/DEVELOPMENT SITES

<u>Existing</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Dike Lake	35	Upper Blackfoot River	40
Goodenough Cr.	5	Trail Creek Bridge	5
Henry Mine	560	Harkness Canyon	5
Stauffer Mine	240	Blackrock Canyon	5
Conda Mine	1,160	Chinks Peak Hang gliding Site	
5			
Sagehen Flat	5	Blackrock Canyon Winter Trail	5
Graves Creek	5	Walker Creek Loop Trail	5
Cutthroat Trout	5	Morgans Bridge	<u>5</u>
Wolverine Creek	5	Total:	75
Caribou Ski Area	120		
Moonlight Mtn. Yurt	20		
Howard Mtn. Comm. Sites	520		
Chinks Peak Sites	120		
Fish Cr. Comm. Sites	40		
Garden Creek Comm. Site	20		
Taylor Mtn. Comm. Sites	50		
Stump Creek Comm. Sites	<u>20</u>		
Total:	2,930		

Policy

The first priority for managing an intensive use/development class is to provide for existing and projected demands for large-scale intensive use and development. Intensive use areas are generally reserved for major recreation sites or facilities, off-road-vehicle intensive use areas, large-scale mineral or energy extraction operations, military use areas, or major utility installations. These areas will be managed for a high intensity of use. Because of the potential for conflict with other uses in these areas, some uses may not be permitted. Protection of sensitive and significant resources, however, will be ensured, consistent with Federal and State law. Public lands in an intensive use/development class will be retained in Federal ownership.

Transfer Class

A total of 17,068 acres are classified for transfer in this Draft RMP.

Purpose

The purpose of a transfer class is to delineate public lands that may be considered for transfer out of Federal ownership.

Policy

The transfer class is the class in which public lands may be transferred out of Federal ownership under this plan. Public lands declared eligible for transfer by their inclusion in this category are subject to detailed consideration prior to the final decision regarding transfer. Transfer classes are delineated in response to specific developments, community expansion, and other transfers, including transfers to the State of Idaho. Transfer classes will be managed on a custodial basis until transferred from Federal jurisdiction. New public investments in these lands will generally be kept to a minimum.

THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

This section identifies resource management objectives and required management actions. The resource management objectives set priorities for managing the various resources. Required management actions identify the management actions, limitations, and other provisions that are needed to accomplish the objectives.

Minerals Management

Management Objective

Manage 648,901 (5,942 acres of this total are managed for oil and gas only) acres of Federal mineral estate (excluding Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs acreage) for mineral and energy exploration and development while minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.

Required Management Actions

A total of 598,581 acres would be open for non-energy solid minerals (phosphate) leasing. Approximately 44,378 acres would be closed to non-energy solid minerals (phosphate) leasing with 28,381 acres of that total being non-discretionary (National Wildlife Refuges, withdrawals, etc.) and 15,997 acres discretionary (Resource Natural Areas, Area of Critical Environmental Concerns, public land around Grays Lake, etc.).

A total of 324,009 acres would be open for oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations and with seasonal occupancy restrictions. Another 30,499 acres would be open for oil and gas leasing with a NSO restriction. Approximately 38,895 acres would be closed to oil and gas leasing. About 318,067 acres would be available for geothermal leasing with standard stipulations and with seasonal occupancy restrictions, and 30,499 acres would be available with NSO; 38,895 acres would be closed. A total of 330,250 acres would be open for the location of mining claims, while 57,211 acres would be closed to mineral entry. Mineral material (sand and gravel) disposals would be permitted on 311,793 acres; 75,668 acres would be closed.

Lands

Management Objective

Retain a public land base of 247,413 acres for long-term management in Federal ownership and consider 17,068 for disposal actions.

Required Management Action

BLM would examine 17,068 acres of public land, applying the standard operating procedures for sales or for State or private exchanges, or for transfer under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Included in this total are 8,124 acres that would be considered for transfer solely through exchange.

Land acquisitions would occur through exchanges with private landowners and the State of Idaho. BLM would attempt to acquire 9,687 acres of private land and 9,880 acres of State Land.

A total of 403 acres of public land would be retained and used under existing permits/leases for a ski area, the National Guard and agriculture, and yurt system.

Right-of-way development would occur with standard stipulations on 191,561 acres. Restrictions other than standard stipulations would be imposed on 42,251 acres. A total of 30,669 acres would be closed to right-of-way development.

Range Management

Management Objective

Manage 217,728 acres for grazing. Improve 8,957 acres of poor condition range to good and 7,500 acres of fair condition range to good. Provide 34,276 animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock forage in 15 years. Offer 7,200 acres of the 15,400 acres of total unallotted rangeland for lease.

Required Management Actions

In the short-term, no adjustments would be made on any allotments. Grazing adjustments would be made over the 15-year life of the RMP and would occur only after conducting monitoring studies and coordinating with affected users. The initial stocking level of 24,061 AUMs would be below the active preference and is the five-year average use. The long-term stocking level of 34,276 AUMs would be 15 percent above the active preference and 30 percent above the five-year average use. Proposed improvements would include 11,240 acres of brush control/seedings, 54 water facilities, and 10 miles of fences.

Wildlife Management

Management Objective

Provide forage for 7,105 deer and 543 elk. Improve 3,682 acres of elk and deer winter range and 3,126 acres of sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse seasonal ranges from fair to good ecological range condition. Provide a more consistent water supply on 1,000 acres of deer, sage grouse, and non-game habitat in the Bear Lake Plateau area. Enhance big game movement and safety through fence modifications. Protect the future integrity of the elk breeding area in Brown's Canyon.

Required Management Actions

Eight habitat management plans would be developed on 45,959 acres. Prescribed burning would occur on 7,320 acres of big game range and 40 acres of river habitat. BLM would install 2 guzzlers and fence several areas to improve wildlife habitat (riparian areas). About 6 miles of fence would be modified for big game movement and safety. The quality of 2,700 acres of big game habitat would be improved through restrictions on livestock use and timber management and harvest.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Management Objective

Manage 264,481 acres for ORV designations of either open, closed, or limited.

Continue to manage for dispersed recreation by maintaining existing recreational opportunity settings. Manage the visual resources on lands outside of the Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) to maintain existing scenic qualities. Protect existing and planned investments in developed recreation sites.

Recognize recreation as the principal use of the lands in the two designated SRMAs - the Blackfoot River SRMA and the Pocatello SRMA for a total of 64,532 acres.

Required Management Actions

The two SRMAs would entail mineral withdrawals, restrictions on some nonrecreational uses, and restrictive visual management practices. A recreation area management plan would be written for each SRMA.

Lands open to wheeled vehicle use would be 75,115 acres and over-snow use would be 143,931 acres. Wheeled vehicles would be limited to designated routes and/or existing roads and trails on 185,829 acres where soil erosion is a concern. Over-snow vehicles would be limited on 93,673 acres of big game winter range to designated routes. Areas with

extremely erosive soil, important cultural sites, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Research Natural Areas would be closed to wheeled vehicles on 3,537 acres. Areas closed to over-snow vehicles due to big game winter range would include 26,879 acres.

For visual resource management, the following designations would be made: Class I, 11,338 acres; Class II, 99,055 acres; Class III, 141,266 acres; and Class IV, 12,822 acres.

Wilderness

Management Objective

Manage 11,298 acres of the Petticoat Peak WSA and the 40 acres of Worm Creek WSA under the BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, until Congress makes its decision.

Required Management Actions

Continued management under BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review until Congress makes a decision.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Management Objective

Propose to designate three areas which would include: Stump Creek Ridge (2483 acres), Downey Watershed (1800 acres), and Travertine Park (223 acres) which totals 4,506 acres.

Required Management Actions

Stump Creek Ridge ACEC

- Abide by the Stump Creek Habitat Management Plan.
- Establish grazing systems which enhance winter forage for elk.
- Propose a common use allotment by combining some or all of the grazing allotments in the ACEC area.
- Continue snowmobile closure, increase enforcement efforts.
- Rehabilitate winter range through burning or establishment of browse species.
- Discretionary closure for phosphate.
- NSO for oil and gas.
- Requires plan of operation for mining claim development.

Downey Watershed ACEC

- Initiate a grazing management system that will restore native vegetation to good condition.
- Propose combining the Yago Creek and 9 Mile Creek Allotments into a common allotment to provide better opportunities for grazing management.
- Discretionary closure for phosphate.
- NSO for oil and gas.
- Maintain the 1800-acre mineral withdrawal for locatables.

Travertine Park ACEC

- Fence to exclude livestock from the area.
- Sign the area to explain values and the need to protect them.
- Discretionary closure for phosphate.
- NSO for oil and gas.
- Requires plan of operation for mining claim development.

Research Natural Areas

Management Objective

Manage 1,494 acres as RNAs. This includes seven proposed areas: Cheatback Canyon, Dairy Hollow, Formation Cave, Oneida Narrows, Pine Gap, Robbers Roost Creek, and Travertine Park.

Required Management Actions

- Close to ORV use in these areas.
- Eliminate livestock grazing from Dairy Hollow, Pine Gap and Travertine Park by fencing.
- NSO stipulations on leasable mineral activities and withdrawal from mining claim location for all the proposed RNAs.

Cultural Resource Management

Management Objectives

Manage cultural resources so that representative samples of the full range of scientific and socio-cultural values are maintained consistent with State and Federal laws.

Required Management Actions

Manage thirteen cultural resource management areas which have potential for contributing scientific, historic, or management information. Designate three of these areas as NSO and ten as Sensitive Areas (see Table 3).

TABLE 3
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY	<u>Acres</u>
1. Historic Railroad Grade	10
2. Blackrock Canyon	40
3. Historic Trail Segments	2,000
 SENSITIVE AREAS	
1. Prehistoric Area A	280
2. Indian Rocks	370
3. Prehistoric Area B	1,200
4. Upper Valley	520
5. Prehistoric Area C	280
6. Prehistoric Area D	40
7. Bear Lake Plateau	320
8. Prehistoric Area E	240
9. Prehistoric Area F	40
10. Prehistoric Area G	3,400

Forest Management

Management Objective

Intensively manage 12,177 acres of restricted and non-restricted commercial forest land under clearcut, shelterwood, and group selection harvest regeneration methods. Manage 1,078 acres of commercial forest land to benefit other resource values. Manage 28,011 acres of woodland for the production of woodland products (firewood, post/poles, etc.).

Required Management Actions

Forest management activities could occur on 13,255 acres of commercial forest land. Of this, 808 acres of predominantly lodgepole pine would be managed under a clearcut harvest regeneration method.

The remaining 12,447 acres of predominately Douglas-fir would be available for restricted management or would be managed to enhance other uses. These areas would be harvested under shelterwood or group selection harvest regeneration methods.

Until a decision is made on the Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek WSAs, 2,559 acres of commercial forest land would be placed in a deferred category precluding any forest management activities. In addition, the Timber Productivity Capability Classification Inventory conducted in the District in 1984 withdraws 1,279 acres from timber base for productivity reasons, unstable slopes, and problem regeneration sites.

Approximately 28,011 acres of woodland would be available for management. The Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek WSAs would defer 5,069 acres precluding any woodland management activities in these areas until a designation is made. An additional 500 acres of woodland would be lost due to proposed juniper cutting areas scheduled in the Soda Springs area to alleviate understory erosion.

Riparian and Water Quality

Management Objective

Manage 20.15 miles of stream to improve riparian habitat and water quality. Maintain 70.89 miles of stream in present (fair, good and excellent) condition.

Required Management Actions

Allotment management plans (including riparian) would be written to help evaluate management options in different areas within the PRA. New timber harvest roads would be closed at the completion of timber sales. BLM would fence 8.25 miles of perennial stream riparian area.

Soils and Watershed Management

Management Objective

Manage the PRA to keep soil erosion within tolerable limits (less than 5 tons/acre/year).

Required Management Actions

Monitoring would occur on 22 allotments, identified in Appendix H, for at least three years to determine erosion rates. If erosion rates exceed 5 tons/acre/year, surface disturbing activities would be reduced and livestock grazing adjusted. The 948 acres in allotment 0036 would continue unallotted for grazing to protect erodable soils in Oneida Narrows. Reclamation would occur on 224 acres in the Woodall Mountain and Trail Creek mining areas.

Fire Management

Management Objectives

Manage fire for the protection and enhancement of resource values such as livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and timber.

Required Management Actions

Full suppression fire management guidelines would be followed on 253,141 acres. 11,338 acres would be managed under the limited suppression to maintain wilderness quality. All developed recreation sites and sites that have the potential for development would be under suppression restrictions, i.e., no retardant, no heavy equipment use, and no fireline explosives.

Prescribed burns for vegetation manipulation will be one of the options considered for brush control. At the activity planning stages, actual acres to be burned will be determined. Heavy fuel loading caused by logging debris and dead trees would be reduced by controlled burning to decrease the likelihood of having a disastrous fire.

Access

Approximately 87,900 acres (33 percent) of the public lands in the PRA have legal public access over existing Federal, State and county roads. Throughout the planning process, public access and easements needs to important blocks or tracts of public land were identified. See Table 1.

Required Management Action

The acquisition of 44.00 miles of road and trail access identified would open another 37,300 acres (17 percent) of public lands in the PRA to the public primarily for recreation purposes.